NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD OFFICE OF MARINE SAFETY WASHINGTON, D.C.

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SELENDANG AYU

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INTERVIEW OF CAPTAIN

KAILASH SINGH

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An interview in the above entitled matter was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2004, commencing at 9:04 a.m., before:

ROB JONES, NTSB

BRIAN CURTIS, NTSB

SEAN MCPHILAMY, USGC

DARRELL HOWELLS, USCG

CAPTAIN LEW KWOK YUE, IMC SHIPPING

- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- MR. JONES: Okay today is the 12, 11 of December.
- 3 This is an interview with KD?
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: KB Singh.
- 5 MR. JONES: KB Singh. The master of the Selendang
- 6 Ayu. We're invest, my name is Rob Jones, with the National
- 7 Transportation Safety Board. We're investigating the
- 8 grounding of the vessel off the north shore of Puntelaska
- 9 (phonetic sp.) Island.
- 10 And Captain, if you can take us from, where was
- 11 your last port?
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Seattle.
- 13 MR. JONES: Seattle. And you know when you left?
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We left on 28, 8 of
- 15 November.
- 16 MR. JONES: The 8th of November --
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: The 28th of November.
- 18 MR. JONES: The 28th of November. And if you
- 19 could give us just a short description of the transit up to
- 20 the approach to the Elushia Islands.
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And we left on 28th in the
- 22 afternoon and we were out of (indiscernible) Strait on 300
- 23 miles of 29th. Until that time we had (indiscernible)
- 24 leaving that place during the (indiscernible) 5-6 hours
- 25 (indiscernible) and then it continued. (indiscernible) it

- 1 just got worse and worse.
- 2 MR. JONES: So bad weather all the way to the
- 3 Elushias?
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: To the Elushias.
- 5 MR. JONES: Okay and --
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We made a (indiscernible)
- 7 on fifth evening. Around about 2200 hours, my
- 8 (indiscernible). I was sleeping at that time, 11 hours plus
- 9 DOT. Not this time but my time was in a (indiscernible).
- 10 It's a two hour difference.
- 11 MR. JONES: Okay and anything eventful going
- 12 through the (indiscernible) Pass?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, we had a smooth
- 14 passage through the (indiscernible) pass.
- 15 MR. JONES: Okay and you just continue on. I'll
- 16 let you tell the story.
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Then we continued and in a
- 18 good way during the passage (indiscernible) was taking
- 19 place, rolling also taking place. And we had to, we could
- 20 not maintain our full speed so we're going up and down on
- 21 the main engine (indiscernible) because as for the chief
- 22 engineer there was load on the engines. You do not want to
- 23 exceed that load. So I asked him, I said (indiscernible)
- 24 whatever is possible. So according to the weather we kept
- 25 adjusting our speed. We vary speed sometimes. One day we

1 maintained only 5.6 or 5.3 mile. Another day 10 and a half,

- 2 like that. 8 and a half, (indiscernible) speed. Instead of
- 3 making our normal speed of 30 and a half. We
- 4 (indiscernible) and then I believe not (indiscernible) very
- 5 special (indiscernible) between 4 and 6 we started having
- 6 strike sergeant on the battery charger, turbo charger.
- 7 MR. JONES: Slight --
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) so what do
- 9 I do, adjust the RPM and continue speed. Because then on
- 10 the 6th around noon time, in the afternoon, noon afternoon
- 11 time we had the speed up so I received a call from chief
- 12 engineer, the engineer (indiscernible). I asked
- 13 (indiscernible) he said the timer disconnected from the
- 14 three engine. I said what do we do then, what are the
- 15 plans. He said we stop and check first and then we
- 16 (indiscernible).
- MR. JONES: What was that last part?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) go over
- 19 this.
- 20 MR. JONES: Make a decision?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Then what I did was I
- 24 checked the distance of the time (indiscernible) my position
- 25 at that time. How many miles we were from Dutch Harbor and

- 1 how many miles I was from my port of discharge
- 2 (indiscernible). So I was aware of my position, how far
- 3 from land and how far from the nearest harbor, port cities
- 4 original in Dutch Harbor and after doing that
- 5 (indiscernible) the chief engineer showed me that
- 6 (indiscernible). Then we discussed changing the liner
- 7 (indiscernible) to like a ship's top we started rolling
- 8 further. First we are (indiscernible) then we start
- 9 rolling. The rolling continued doing this so we were
- 10 considering to renew the liner but then we did not want to
- 11 take that chance. That if we get stuck in pulling out or
- 12 putting it back if you manage to pull it out and if you put
- 13 it back in it might (indiscernible) then what will you do.
- 14 Then after during that talk and what we decided that we will
- 15 isolate the number 3 unit. Then we'll go back to Dutch
- 16 Harbor. We will try to go back to Dutch Harbor and ask for,
- 17 go for (indiscernible) in shallow waters.
- 18 MR. JONES: So if I could just sum up. You
- 19 decided at that point to isolate the unit?
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Number 3 unit.
- 21 MR. JONES: Number 3 unit and go back to Dutch
- 22 Harbor for repairs?
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That's right.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: But then when we isolated

1 the unit, number 3, we could not start, we could not fire

- 2 engines. We made several attempts and we could not. Then
- 3 we got in touch with the (indiscernible). They asked us,
- 4 there was procedure how they do, go over isolating. I gave
- 5 them all the steps then they came back and they said no, you
- 6 can't do all those steps. Just do the first step
- 7 (indiscernible) because 6-7 steps. They said you
- 8 (indiscernible) just take the first step and then try
- 9 (indiscernible). We did all that and then as further
- 10 instructions we try to fire that one but we failed.
- 11 MR. JONES: And approximately how far off were you
- 12 at this time, off of Dutch Harbor?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) 1510
- 14 miles.
- MR. JONES: Approximately?
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Approximately. We
- 17 started, when we started we were not making much problem,
- 18 we're almost there, then suddenly we started going back
- 19 along the (indiscernible) going backwards, almost
- 20 (indiscernible). The first 5-6 hours (indiscernible) we
- 21 were just going in straight line and then later on we
- 22 started setting towards east, east south and then the
- 23 (indiscernible) and then I started, we are heading towards
- 24 (indiscernible) Island so I started calling the Dutch Harbor
- 25 on channel 16. VHF channel 16.

- 1 MR. JONES: Yes.
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Made several attempts but
- 3 I could not. And then later on I, when I, first I thought I
- 4 was a little far (indiscernible) maybe (indiscernible) or
- 5 something. (Indiscernible) then I did not succeed I checked
- 6 with the (indiscernible) volume 6 at the Harbor Master's
- 7 telephone number and then I made a phone call to the Harbor
- 8 Master's office. First I apologized that I'm sorry to ring
- 9 you at this time of hour. He said oh no, you are not
- 10 disturbing me at all. He was speaking from the Harbor
- 11 Master's office. And I said I have a problem
- 12 (indiscernible) I'm heading towards (indiscernible) Island.
- 13 (Indiscernible) 15 or 17 hours, I'm not really sure but 17
- 14 probably. And this (indiscernible) so I need Harbor help.
- 15 He said all right I will help you make a few phone calls to
- 16 get that thing arranged. And then after some time I got a
- 17 call from the Harbor Master's, from the U.S. Coast Guard, SU
- 18 station in (indiscernible) station (indiscernible) you mean
- 19 Station (indiscernible)?
- 20 MR. JONES: (Indiscernible?)
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no, no.
- 22 (Indiscernible) the rescue station.
- 23 MR. JONES: Kodiac --
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Kodiac. Thank you. So he
- 25 left (indiscernible) Ms. Duncan she called me that she, she

1 asked me the ship's position which city and which direction

- 2 (indiscernible) and then she would be calling me every hour.
- 3 Also she told me that Harbor Master cannot arrange tug boat
- 4 for you. Your company, tell your company we are
- 5 (indiscernible) have agent in Alaska (indiscernible). I
- 6 said I am not sure (indiscernible). So she said you will
- 7 have to have a (indiscernible) to arrange for the time
- 8 because payment is (indiscernible). So I sent the message
- 9 to the company that this is a requirement. The company was
- 10 already I believe in touch with the various tug companies
- 11 out of Seattle at that time. So very (indiscernible) and
- 12 contact and agent was already I believe being appointed or
- 13 they were in touch with the tug boat towing companies.
- 14 Seattle contact was trying to arrange something over for
- 15 Dutch Harbor, from the vicinity. But then every hour I got
- 16 calls from (indiscernible) the rescue center, regarding the
- 17 position and I kept my (indiscernible). And then they told
- 18 me that (indiscernible) they asked me how long you take to
- 19 be very close to the (indiscernible) Island. So
- 20 (indiscernible) tugs would take about 10 hours to reach. So
- 21 they (indiscernible) the first, first vessel for rescue
- 22 which appeared was U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Alex Hailey and
- 23 (indiscernible) and they was, they were (indiscernible) they
- 24 were asking me what is your opinion, which way you are
- 25 drifting. Then they said we will assess your rate of

1 different direction and then we will direct you. So they

- 2 were taking a certain amount of (indiscernible). And also
- 3 they were standing by. They said in case, they said there
- 4 is a delay in the tugs arrival. In case they're not
- 5 (indiscernible) then we will do something, someone will tow
- 6 you. (Indiscernible) we do something. In case of
- 7 (indiscernible).
- 8 Then around 1600 or so Tug Sidney Foss came. They
- 9 are already in touch with me on the VHF. They told me what
- 10 sort of arrangements they would make, how they would pass
- 11 the tow line. And when they came (indiscernible) all the
- 12 time getting off (indiscernible). When they came they also
- 13 test the situation straight off the sea, they sent from the
- 14 island from which way they will make approach and then they
- 15 decided to approach from the starboard border. Then we
- 16 tried to throw the line. We failed the first time. Then
- 17 they went back, they made another attempt and we were trying
- 18 to pass the line. So that took just about I think 20, 15
- 19 minutes. The first attempt and the second, the line was
- 20 (indiscernible). We picked up their line and
- 21 (indiscernible).
- 22 MR. JONES: You said Sidney Foss came aboard --
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Around 1600.
- 24 MR. JONES: 1600 --
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 1630 or so.

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1 MR. JONES: And what date was that?
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- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 7th.
- 3 MR. JONES: That was the 7th? And they took a
- 4 hawser?
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They gave us their hawser.
- 6 MR. JONES: They gave you the hawser?
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Hawser was about 9 inches,
- 8 (indiscernible) 9 inch. (Indiscernible.)
- 9 MR. JONES: And off the port deck you say?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Off, no from the
- 11 (indiscernible) the center chop.
- MR. JONES: Center chop?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Center chop.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And then we made
- 16 (indiscernible) on the ship and that line was again
- 17 corrected with another (indiscernible) on the boat. And
- 18 then they adjusted their lines and went on the boat's port
- 19 bow because they were ready and they said (indiscernible).
- 20 MR. JONES: About how far of Bogoslav Island were
- 21 you at this time? Can you estimate?
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, we had already have by
- 23 the time they came.
- 24 MR. JONES: Okay, you passed clear?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We already passed clear.

- 1 MR. JONES: South? North?
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We passed the north,
- 3 (indiscernible) emergency (indiscernible), north of
- 4 Bogoslav.
- 5 MR. JONES: You'll have to forgive me, Captain. I
- 6 don't have a chart in front of me and I'm not familiar with
- 7 this part of the world either right now so I'll, just that's
- 8 if I want to clarify it for you while we're talking about it
- 9 this way. Okay so if I could just recap, the Foss now is
- 10 towing you with a wire off, from your, off your port bow?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Correct.
- MR. JONES: And your 3 miles north of Bogoslav?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I believe we had already
- 14 passed that (indiscernible).
- MR. JONES: Okay, approximately.
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: But that time Alex Hailey
- 17 was standing by.
- 18 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: To make sure that we were
- 20 clear, clearing.
- 21 MR. JONES: Okay. So you're under a tow line now.
- 22 Alex Hailey is standing by. If you could just kind of
- 23 proceed from there.
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: So we started, the tow
- 25 line was secure at 20:05, 20:05. The line was passed around

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1 19:50 and tow line was secure around 20:05. And then they
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- 2 took another 20 minutes or so (indiscernible) to assess the
- 3 situation that is happening. And then we were drifting and
- 4 we still start drifting. They were trying to pull us. They
- 5 were trying to pull the ship into the wind. They said they
- 6 are attempting to pull the ship into the wind but bow would
- 7 never (indiscernible). We try to give the (indiscernible)
- 8 on the ship also. Port (indiscernible) 20 degrees but
- 9 (indiscernible) and we kept drifting in the direction of
- 10 120, 135, 130, 115 rate. (Indiscernible) to almost 1.7
- 11 (indiscernible).
- 12 MR. JONES: Is that your drift speed?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Drift speed.
- MR. JONES: So your --
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: So we kept going towards
- 16 (indiscernible) --
- 17 MR. JONES: South.
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- MR. JONES: Okay, so the starboard --
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- 21 MR. JONES: (Indiscernible.)
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no, no.
- 23 (Indiscernible.)
- MR. LEW: He's saying (indiscernible).
- 25 MR. JONES: Well that might be, well --

1 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) side into

- 2 the, so (indiscernible).
- 3 MR. LEW: (Indiscernible) --
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) the next
- 5 one to the east of (indiscernible).
- 6 MR. LEW: (Indiscernible.)
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) no.
- 8 MR. JONES: Go ahead.
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- 10 MR. MCPHILAMY: Captain, this is (indiscernible)
- 11 McPhilamy. I believe you are correct, (indiscernible)
- 12 Island.
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Island.
- 14 MR. MCPHILAMY: I will confirm the spelling and
- 15 look at the chart.
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- 17 MR. MCPHILAMY: Okay.
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) closer to
- 19 the other line then we started going closer to
- 20 (indiscernible) around 6:30 I spoke to the master again, Tug
- 21 Master. I said I appreciate your efforts but it looks like
- 22 we are going too close. At this rate we will definitely run
- 23 aground even with your assistance. He said I am aware of
- 24 that. We are trying to work out something. I said if you
- 25 could only (indiscernible) can help us, use (indiscernible)

1 to another tug. He said we are keeping that option also in

- 2 mind. Because I'm waiting for the daylight. Daylight was
- 3 going to be around 10:00. So I spoke to Tug Master around
- 4 6:30 or so but then by 7:30 the tug line parted. 7:32.
- 5 That was on 8th morning.
- 6 MR. JONES: 07:32?
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 07:32.
- 8 MR. JONES: In the morning.
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: So he called me, Tug
- 10 Master, he called me. He said Captain, the tug line has
- 11 parted (indiscernible). And I said what do we do now. He
- 12 said I have no other, no spare towing line (indiscernible).
- 13 So I said quickly, I asked chief let me know from where,
- 14 which is the location from where the rope has parted so we
- 15 found it, it was just below the, 4-5 meters before the
- 16 (indiscernible). So they had lost only about 10, 8-10
- 17 meters, to our position. So I informed them they were
- 18 trying to figure out, they didn't know how much line we had
- 19 lost. So I called Sidney Foss Master and said you have lost
- 20 just about 10 meters, maybe 9, maybe 8. (Indiscernible.)
- 21 Alex Hailey was also in contact at that time and at that
- 22 time James Dunlap also in the vicinity. They were also
- 23 listening to this conversation. But then he said at the
- 24 moment I can't do nothing. First I'm collecting the line,
- 25 taking on board and then I'll speak to you after

- 1 (indiscernible). Let me figure out what I can do. Then
- 2 they took the line and they started splicing again another
- 3 line. So I said can you, what time can you make another
- 4 attempt. He said let me get ready and then I'll let you
- 5 know. By the time they were ready they said now the thing
- 6 is all the line is, we are ready but I cannot risk my, my
- 7 crew members to go (indiscernible) a lot of water on the
- 8 half deck. And around I believe, around 10:00 or so the
- 9 (indiscernible) the tug James Dunlap, she had contacted Alex
- 10 Hailey again that I take it you are on chief commander of
- 11 rescue mission. We authorize (indiscernible). But they did
- 12 not speak to me, they did not call me. I did not interfere
- 13 in that conversation.
- 14 MR. JONES: You, but you heard it over 16?
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I heard it, it was 16, I
- 16 think it was 16.
- 17 MR. JONES: Over the radio?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Over the VHF.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) 16, but I
- 21 believe it was channel 16. Or could have been 6. Most
- 22 likely it was 16. And Sidney Foss did not interfere in that
- 23 conversation. And later still I asked if, if they could
- 24 pass me the tow line. I did not say it was anything
- 25 (indiscernible) I asked James Dunlap if they can pass me tow

- 1 line. They said that not at this time. They said the
- 2 weather is too bad. But weather was actually very very bad
- 3 at that time.
- 4 MR. JONES: Can you estimate the weather at that
- 5 time?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Let me check. I think it
- 7 was (indiscernible) 10 to 9, 9 miles, Beaufort Force 9.
- MR. JONES: Beaufort Force 9?
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Beaufort Force.
- 10 So they were never able to make any effort then.
- 11 They said they cannot risk their people. And then around I
- 12 believe the same time, around 10:00 or something Alex Hailey
- 13 told me to keep my anchors ready. I said anchors are
- 14 already ready to let go. They said we will, we will tell
- 15 you when to, when is the right time to drop your anchor. In
- 16 the meantime I was taking, checking (indiscernible). Then I
- 17 entered the shallow bags, the (indiscernible).
- 18 MR. JONES: Just electronically (indiscernible) --
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Oh I have (indiscernible).
- 20 I don't recall what time we entered that shallow patch and
- 21 then (indiscernible) 100 meter (indiscernible). So for a
- 22 long time we was maintaining 90-98, then we went to 85. But
- 23 when I drop anchor that time the (indiscernible) was showing
- 24 below the surface, not (indiscernible) but 98 meters. There
- 25 was sea surface.

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1 MR. JONES: Okay. 98 meters?
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- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 98 meters, total depth.
- 3 MR. JONES: Total depth?
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Total depth. Including
- 5 the ship's draft.
- 6 MR. JONES: Including the draft? Do your
- 7 electronics convert that, is that how it's set?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, they show --
- 9 MR. JONES: The actual depth of water?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: It shows, you can set it
- 11 (indiscernible) so you can set it right below heel or below
- 12 the surface.
- MR. JONES: Okay, so this is below the surface?
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Below the surface.
- MR. JONES: Okay. And that's when you let the
- 16 anchor go?
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: The port anchor, we let go
- 18 of the port anchor. They told me to lower it to 7, 7
- 19 shackles.
- 20 MR. JONES: Now did --
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.) They
- 22 just told me that (indiscernible) so I started
- 23 (indiscernible) at about 6, I got 6 shackles down, not very
- 24 sure whether it is 6 or 4 then I told them all 10 shackles
- 25 are down now. (Indiscernible) and cable is still in gear,

1 still in gear and I'm (indiscernible) so three precautions

- 2 in case of slip. For some time we did not feel any banging
- 3 noise but there was very very strong wind. We could not be
- 4 very sure but for, I believe first half an hour or something
- 5 chief said he did not hear anything but then he said he
- 6 heard one sound (indiscernible) and anchor was
- 7 (indiscernible) or something. But anchor, we were still
- 8 drifting slowly. For some time we thought we were, she was
- 9 okay but she settled down first and then she start again
- 10 that way. And two, three times we said there's a lot of
- 11 weight coming on the (indiscernible). Initially it could
- 12 hold but they said she will have not slipped at all. Then
- 13 finally I think it slipped a couple of inches and then
- 14 (indiscernible) came on this building five and it stayed
- 15 there. We had no problem stopping and keeping that anchor
- 16 on the check after that. It never walked back,
- 17 (indiscernible).
- 18 MR. JONES: How many shots?
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 10 shots.
- MR. JONES: 10 shots?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 10 shots were on the
- 22 (indiscernible). I had 11 so I want to keep some.
- MR. JONES: So you had one shot. One shot of
- 24 chain in the bed?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: One in the bed.

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MR. JONES: Okay.
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 2
              CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) --
 3
              MR. JONES: That is the 10 shots --
              CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: -- from the
 4
 5
    (indiscernible) --
              MR. JONES: -- on the (indiscernible), to the bow?
 6
 7
              CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: -- (Indiscernible.)
 8
              MR. JONES: Okay.
 9
              CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: But then we kept drifting.
     And I believe then Alex Hailey asked Sidney Foss can they
10
11
    make another attempt to pass the line. They said no. They
12
    said it was too dangerous still.
13
              And then Alex Hailey, they said we are monitoring
14
    your position. Now little bit I'm not very sure. They,
15
    they made one more attempt to help us because Sidney Foss
16
    said we are not going to do it. And not very sure about the
17
    sequence, whether it was the second anchor first or after.
18
    They made another attempt. They said okay, you are getting
19
    too close now. We are going to tow you now, Alex Hailey
20
    said, the U.S. Cutter. They said we are going to tow you
21
          So they went, they came on my port corner.
                                                      They tow
22
    line was across my bow. They said we are, if you get people
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ready we're going to use the (indiscernible) throw you a

line, (indiscernible) line. You take it up, take it up and

then we'll pass you a tow line. They gave me some little,

23

24

25

1 (indiscernible). So we got the line, we took their line and

- 2 then we started heaving. (Indiscernible) they cut across my
- 3 bow, they kept proceeding but the strain was so much they
- 4 lost (indiscernible) and then they leave the line. They got
- 5 scared. (Indiscernible) they said they're sorry
- 6 (indiscernible) the line. It took some time to get the ship
- 7 under control and then they went away. They said they are
- 8 thinking off making another attempt but they said it could
- 9 take only, another 45 minutes. They're still contemplating
- 10 about making another anchor.
- 11 But eventually when it was too late they said. That
- 12 they will not do that. So I am not very sure about the
- 13 second anchor (indiscernible) or after that. I have sudden
- 14 (indiscernible) I think 1 mile or at one point it was more
- 15 than 1 nautical mile from the shore for the Foss. I started
- 16 walking back to my starboard anchor. But I, I told Alex
- 17 Hailey that I am going to use my starboard anchor. They
- 18 said, first they said I better check with the Sidney Foss.
- 19 It may hamper their rescue missions later on if you have two
- 20 anchors.
- I spoke to Alex, Sidney, sorry, Sidney Foss. I
- 22 said is it okay if I use the starboard anchor because I'm
- 23 going too close now, (indiscernible). They said okay
- 24 Captain, go ahead. And I have to just, it's still the
- 25 weather is very bad so you use whatever you have. Do

- 1 whatever you can. So I started (indiscernible).
- 2 And when the anchor was 10 shots on the starboard
- 3 I stopped. I do the same thing (indiscernible). And it
- 4 appeared that we were not drifting anymore. We maintained
- 5 that (indiscernible) .9 cables off of the shore.
- 6 MR. JONES: .9 cables?
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: .9 on the shore.
- 8 MR. JONES: Off from the shore?
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Off from the shore.
- 10 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And my stern was facing
- 12 the shore. So that means that it was, let's say at least 8
- 13 cables from the shore, the stern of the ship. And in the
- 14 meantime we were cutting with our, reviving the engines,
- 15 working on the number 6 unit. And (indiscernible) loading
- 16 anchor and (indiscernible) that crew also went to assist but
- 17 (indiscernible).
- 18 They started telling me I think around 10:00, the
- 19 Alex Hailey, that Captain, you should planning down because
- 20 we are running towards danger. (Indiscernible) concern they
- 21 said it was safety of life. I said I fully understand but I
- 22 need, I'm trying my best to avoid the ship running aground
- 23 so I am making all my efforts, and I'm working on my engines
- 24 and I'm trying to get them ready as soon as possible so
- 25 please try to delay us and as long as possible to

1 (indiscernible. They said okay what they will do is you

- 2 mark at least 5-9 persons of work on the (indiscernible).
- 3 We'll send them in one batch, first batch. So I delayed
- 4 that, I said I had this movement. I said that nobody is
- 5 nonessential. I need all the hands. (Indiscernible) not
- 6 possible. So I delayed until about 1300 hours. Then they
- 7 did not ask me, they said Captain, now we are sending the
- 8 first chopper. Please sir, keep your people ready.
- 9 So the engineer told us Chief said send all the
- 10 (indiscernible) cook and one (indiscernible). So 9 people
- 11 were marked, sent to the (indiscernible). The helicopter,
- 12 the first helicopter came they took a round. They said
- 13 okay, port bow is a safe place, assemble them there.
- 14 They were picked up around 13:58, first batch, 9
- 15 persons. Then for the second batch I said please give me as
- 16 much time as possible so that I can use these people to get
- 17 the engine running because we are trying to put the number
- 18 3, number 6 unit back, etcetera. The pistons were out and
- 19 (indiscernible) the ranks. But then (indiscernible) 20-20
- 20 minutes. That also gave, they just said because
- 21 (indiscernible) the helicopter right away so they just send
- 22 it. So I had to rush people, I moved the people from engine
- 23 room. I said, so I told chief, I said they're not
- 24 (indiscernible) send the second batch. We keep just 8
- 25 persons on. They said either you keep 8 or you keep 9. So

1 (indiscernible) so we sent another 9 persons. They were

- 2 rescued I believe around 14.38. So 9, by this time 19
- 3 persons had, part of 26 crew had gone.
- 4 MR. JONES: And Captain, before we get too far
- 5 ahead, this is all over VHF 16?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 16 and 6.
- 7 MR. JONES: 16 and 6?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Because I had channel 22
- 9 (indiscernible) also. (Indiscernible.)
- 10 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Now then, then they asked
- 12 me (indiscernible) the remaining 8 persons. That was around
- 13 16 (indiscernible) they told me that they have two options.
- 14 They said until 1800 hours (indiscernible) sources
- 15 available. They can lift all 8 persons in one group,
- 16 (indiscernible) routes. After 1800 hours they said that
- 17 their ability would be limited very much limited because
- 18 they have a small chopper that can lift only 4 persons, no
- 19 more. And you must allow us at least one hour to lift all 8
- 20 of you. That is in two batches, that is a minimum. But
- 21 then they said that you should concerned about the weather
- 22 because nighttime preparations can take much longer and it
- 23 can be very very difficult and unsafe for the rescue teams
- 24 and also for the crew. Operation could take longer. I said
- 25 I'm still working on my engines. I would like to check with

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1 my chief engineer, but will you please give me some more
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- 2 time. I said I'll let you know. I know that 1800 hours is
- 3 the deadline for (indiscernible) persons. I said I will
- 4 keep that in mind. So I kept them (indiscernible) then they
- 5 asked me again around 16:30. Again they (indiscernible). I
- 6 said we are trying to contain the area as soon as possible.
- 7 In the meantime I was in touch with chief engineer. He
- 8 said he was trying his best. Finally at 1700, I think it
- 9 was 16:50 or something, 16:55 they told us Captain, we're
- 10 waiting. (Indiscernible) let me check one more time. 1700
- 11 hours I spoke to my company, I told them this is the
- 12 situation and I spoke to the chief engineer how much time do
- 13 you need because 1800 we cannot remain beyond 1800 hours.
- 14 He said I just need 10 minutes more. After that I'll give,
- 15 I'll fire the engine. So I put the phone down and
- 16 (indiscernible). I had one phone on the bridge, one in my
- 17 cabin. So that is (indiscernible) chief engineer after
- 18 around 1700 hours. He said I need just 10 minutes. So I
- 19 was, (indiscernible) because I had kept Coast Guard Cutter
- 20 waiting. So my procedure was I will ask them that 1800
- 21 hours I need a chopper. And in the meantime I expect the
- 22 (indiscernible) next 20-25 minutes where I allowed another
- 23 15 minutes. The chief engineer said 10 minutes are allowed,
- 24 another 15 minutes. If anything goes wrong okay we don't
- 25 need, we can spare, but 1800 hours I definitely need a

1 chopper. If things didn't go well cancel it. But as I was

- 2 climbing up within two minutes or something (indiscernible)
- 3 I have the (indiscernible) that we got our (indiscernible)
- 4 and we can (indiscernible) 4, 5, 6 seconds another one.
- 5 Immediately I picked up the inter, (indiscernible). I said
- 6 chief please get everybody out of here. We have run
- 7 aground. Send everybody within one or two minutes
- 8 (indiscernible) to the post involved. We have run the ship
- 9 aground and I'm calling for the helicopter because
- 10 helicopter they had already told me that they were in place.
- 11 So I put the (indiscernible) I contacted the Alex Hailey
- 12 and said we have run aground, please send up the chopper as
- 13 soon as possible. We will be there in 2-3 minutes waiting.
- 14 All of the persons. (Indiscernible) sending the chopper as
- 15 soon as possible. So then we went, all 8 of us were there.
- 16 Then we lost contact from the VHF but then (indiscernible)
- 17 channel 16 and I had (indiscernible) channel 6. We waited,
- 18 I told the first helicopter, when helicopter was hovering
- 19 around, was assessing I believe the (indiscernible) she kept
- 20 circling around the deck, assessing the situation. After
- 21 this, the rescue helicopter came around 17:55 or so. She
- 22 was followed by another helicopter within a span of, I
- 23 believe, 10 seconds or so, 13 seconds. Two helicopters are
- 24 there suddenly. We were expecting only one. The first one
- 25 came, we had slight problems that time. (Indiscernible)

1 spray coming but as they started picking up the first person

- 2 spray started coming on the bow. And then one after another
- 3 the ship was rolling also, rolling badly. So because they,
- 4 they were having difficulty getting people into the
- 5 (indiscernible) so they told (indiscernible) what do you
- 6 call that, (indiscernible)?
- 7 MR. JONES: Rescue squad.
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Rescue squad. Yeah and
- 9 (indiscernible) he came down. So he started dragging the
- 10 people one by one (indiscernible). First person who went
- 11 into the (indiscernible). The second one (indiscernible)
- 12 second person had gone and then I was standing
- 13 (indiscernible) open and closed, number 1 hold. I had
- 14 (indiscernible) I said can everybody go. I'm going to be
- 15 the last one to go. If I go (indiscernible). So when
- 16 asked, as soon as number 7 had gone I ran to the flight
- 17 position to take up position (indiscernible) so I had --
- 18 sorry.
- 19 MR. JONES: Take your time.
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I had my back facing the
- 21 port side, shop side (indiscernible), sir. And one big wave
- 22 came and they were (indiscernible) something stuck. I
- 23 thought ship was breaking. But at that (indiscernible)
- 24 looking toward that other side because I was trying to
- 25 (indiscernible) washed right into the water. But

1 (indiscernible) that way. So what I heard, I thought the

- 2 ship was breaking, I thought the railing was broken. But
- 3 then I saw some, some (indiscernible) broken down and then
- 4 (indiscernible). And the second helicopter, he was hanging
- 5 very closely and was just above this. One went down and the
- 6 other one (indiscernible) started picking up people, I saw
- 7 it picking up people. And then I told (indiscernible) don't
- 8 stand there, we'll go over (indiscernible) that is a safer
- 9 area. (Indiscernible.) So we were watching for them. They
- 10 picked up all these people. I don't know how many, I have
- 11 no idea where they picked them up or how much. So they
- 12 picked up whatever they were doing and (indiscernible) then
- 13 they called us on the radio. We started contacting them on
- 14 channel 6. That time channel 6 we (indiscernible). But 16,
- 15 channel 16 (indiscernible) we had already boarded, even the
- 16 last person, number 7 the phone (indiscernible). So channel
- 17 6 (indiscernible) I started calling the Alex Hailey
- 18 (indiscernible). So then I am (indiscernible) two persons
- 19 are waiting. They said okay, the helicopter just left now.
- 20 They will take these people to safety and then they will
- 21 come back to you and then the radio, someone took the radio
- 22 from me. He started speaking to them and then
- 23 (indiscernible) quite a while before they come back
- 24 (indiscernible) so they will take them to the hospital so we
- 25 will keep you advised. Then they said we will be in touch

1 with you every 10 minutes, over the radio. (Indiscernible)

- 2 then I left the radio (indiscernible). So we waited until
- 3 20, yeah, 20:45 hours the (indiscernible) the helicopter
- 4 then the chopper came. Helicopter got around 16:15 so that
- 5 the chopper which came to take us, they (indiscernible) I
- 6 believe they came around 20:35 or so. And they picked me up
- 7 around 20:45. I was inside the chopper when I said checked
- 8 the time it was 20:45. So someone came within the next two
- 9 minutes or so, next two or three minutes. Helicopter
- 10 (indiscernible) ask helicopter to come by she's too high
- 11 (indiscernible) option. (Indiscernible) starboard side we
- 12 can pick us up on the starboard side. So then they took
- 13 (indiscernible) our positions and both of us were on that,
- 14 on the chopper.
- Okay, let me go back now. When we were waiting
- 16 for the chopper around 19:30. (Indiscernible) so I, I was
- 17 looking, I saw the bridge being misaligned. So I called and
- 18 said the ship was breaking into two. He said what will
- 19 happen now. He said now we just wait. (Indiscernible) 23
- 20 years old. What will we do now. I said can we do
- 21 something, how can you save us. I said we're going to law
- 22 (indiscernible) because I don't want to go into that. I
- 23 thought (indiscernible) survive in that water. He said I
- 24 know some (indiscernible) I take good care of you. I'm the
- 25 same way, I will keep you also. He said we will keep the

1 (indiscernible) so we made fast (indiscernible) so we tried

- 2 to secure (indiscernible) after some time it broke. Main
- 3 portal we could not, we didn't want to go (indiscernible),
- 4 taking too much of a chance, plus we were not sure of where
- 5 it is (indiscernible) still on board or whether it has gone
- 6 over the side. So (indiscernible) but around 19:30 ship
- 7 broke and the (indiscernible) port side (indiscernible) fall
- 8 apart on this side. (Indiscernible) and then we left the
- 9 ship (indiscernible), when I left the ship the light was
- 10 still on. (Indiscernible) I think even that time light went
- 11 off. But when the helicopter (indiscernible) I saw ship was
- 12 (indiscernible). There are no lights on by that time.
- 13 Now the other thing is when I started running
- 14 (indiscernible) I'm going back again (indiscernible). I had
- 15 lots of incoming (indiscernible) from number 3
- 16 (indiscernible). And then I was proceeding I heard from
- 17 (indiscernible) I believe, first I thought it was number 4
- 18 that was entangled, ruptured first but lot of air was still
- 19 coming so (indiscernible) filling up so we have to get to
- 20 this side. I thought only number 3 (indiscernible) also but
- 21 when I thought it was holding they (indiscernible) number 7
- 22 and number 6. So my understanding was my, I think it was
- 23 probably only number 4 which broke first but later on we
- 24 were all standing engineer told me they heard a big bang
- 25 noise in engine room also. (Indiscernible) engine room or

- 1 in (indiscernible) because number 4 it is very close
- 2 (indiscernible). I asked them I said did you see any water
- 3 but I think they were all panicked so nobody wanted to look
- 4 down there so we are not sure (indiscernible) engine room
- 5 flooding or not.
- 6 So when the ship broke it broke (indiscernible) my
- 7 quess was it was after number 4 like that but
- 8 (indiscernible) and yesterday I saw a picture that is
- 9 clearly trying to (indiscernible) number 4. So which means
- 10 we had (indiscernible) in the area of number 2 central fuel
- 11 tank, (indiscernible) but I could not see any spill that
- 12 time, (indiscernible). So we took (indiscernible) only on
- 13 the port side immediately. (Indiscernible) anchors, I do
- 14 not know if they were close to land or not but half seemed
- 15 to be just getting away and then (indiscernible) distance of
- 16 30 meters, (indiscernible). So it's 20-25 (indiscernible).
- 17 The lights were off when we started moving.
- 18 MR. JONES: At that, were both anchors out, did
- 19 you experience any breaking of the chain or --
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No. What I heard was at
- 21 one time the (indiscernible) and one time I heard a lot of
- 22 air pressure coming out of (indiscernible) air tank so I was
- 23 (indiscernible) flooding in this area now. I think it is
- 24 coming, (indiscernible) area. Water was coming and we had
- 25 water in the engines (indiscernible). So 4B was flooding.

1 So a lot of noise also coming. But then after certain time

- 2 there, the noise stopped, the water stopped, the air stopped
- 3 coming, coming out of that area. That was also when the
- 4 (indiscernible) port side, so I could hear (indiscernible)
- 5 going, getting out of (indiscernible). So 4B was definitely
- 6 punctured, I would say. And (indiscernible) water is coming
- 7 out of number 4 but that was I think water is coming which
- 8 came from (indiscernible) happen. A lot of water coming, it
- 9 appeared as if water is coming out of it, that joining of
- 10 (indiscernible) the tank stopped and (indiscernible) not so
- 11 many noises then. I saw the ship breaking but I did not
- 12 hear any sound. But there was also (indiscernible) whether
- 13 that could be, cable could be getting stretched or maybe
- 14 anchor was (indiscernible) sea was very very rough, very
- 15 angry.
- 16 MR. JONES: Well when you realized you went
- 17 aground and touched, hit bottom for the first time --
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 17:02 maybe.
- 19 MR. JONES: Did you, did you feel that both
- 20 anchors were still out and the chain was intact?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, we did not, nobody
- 22 went (indiscernible) to look at the anchor at that time.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We just stood there and
- 25 (indiscernible) and number 1 hatch for in that area. Two of

1 the times I (indiscernible) crew member but the wind was too

- 2 strong and I just stayed down.
- 3 MR. JONES: But some time back then in the early
- 4 part of the interview you thought you were, you were Point 9
- 5 cables off the beach and holding?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We were holding. We
- 7 thought the anchor was holding, but for a couple of hours.
- 8 MR. JONES: Did you think both anchors were
- 9 holding or just one?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I'm not sure of that.
- 11 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Because then that time
- 13 nobody was watching the cable. Everybody was helping the
- 14 chief engineer.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I (indiscernible) so chief
- 17 also was assessing the condition, checking the position from
- 18 the time we were maintained. Before that I also was also
- 19 checking. So we kept monitoring the position. Position, we
- 20 agreed we were safe. In fact I was going to (indiscernible)
- 21 that we start engine and we keep engine running and then
- 22 once everything under control then when the weather broke
- 23 then we can start (indiscernible) tow line, (indiscernible)
- 24 when the weather improves, next day or something, but then
- 25 suddenly I heard all this noise.

- 1 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 17, let's say 16:55. I
- 3 must have taken 5 minutes to go down and getting up
- 4 Singapore office and also chief engineer. So 1700 when I
- 5 was running up, so that is the time we hit the bottom.
- 6 MR. JONES: And who is on the bridge --
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Chief officer.
- 8 MR. JONES: Chief officer was on there? That's
- 9 when you were on the phone?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: When I was on the phone.
- 11 Chief officer was manning the bridge.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- I'm going to take a break right now.
- 14 Okay, we're continuing the interview with Captain
- 15 Singh. This is Rob Jones from the National Transportation
- 16 Safety Board and just a couple more questions, Captain and
- 17 then I'm going to open it up to the rest of the room. So
- 18 the number of your crew that went off with the first
- 19 helicopter, that was?
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 9.
- MR. JONES: 9. And then the subsequent number?
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 9.
- MR. JONES: So two groups of 9?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Right.
- MR. JONES: And Captain, do you have survival

- 1 suits aboard your vessel?
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We have three survival
- 3 suits.
- 4 MR. JONES: Three survival suits on the entire
- 5 vessel?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Entire vessel.
- 7 MR. JONES: So no, any other type of foul weather
- 8 gear or survival gear.
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Only three suits.
- 10 MR. JONES: Three suits?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Otherwise we have
- 12 (indiscernible) and we have life boats.
- 13 MR. JONES: Okay and during the course of the
- 14 emergency did you make any kind of call to the crew to put
- 15 on life jackets or how was that message or order relayed to
- 16 them?
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.) I told
- 18 everybody to go to the helicopter life jacket on.
- 19 MR. JONES: And how did you do that? Over a
- 20 walkie talkie, a PA system?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, I told chief officer
- 22 on the PA system and then I made announcement everybody
- 23 proceed with your life jackets on.
- MR. JONES: Okay. And how often do you holds
- 25 drills for the ship, Captain? Life boat drills, fire

- 1 drills?
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We have at least minimal
- 3 of once a month. It's twice a month normally, twice a
- 4 month. That is fire drill and abandon ship drill
- 5 (indiscernible).
- 6 MR. JONES: Okay and does your vessel have an ISM
- 7 safety management system?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We do have.
- 9 MR. JONES: And can we get that disk? Do you have
- 10 a copy of that?
- 11 MR. LEW: Certificate. We have that in your
- 12 office, the ship's INC certificate.
- MR. JONES: And also the --
- MR. LEW: The U.S.C. --
- MR. JONES: We would like the SMS itself, the
- 16 Safety Management System disk if you have that.
- 17 MR. LEW: Okay.
- 18 MR. JONES: It'd be a pretty hard copy if you have
- 19 it on the disk.
- 20 MR. LEW: We record (indiscernible). We have
- 21 first level, second level, third level.
- MR. JONES: Okay.
- 23 MR. LEW: So you cannot have all the detailed
- 24 instructions itself
- MR. JONES: Okay. I'm going to turn the

1 investigation over to Mr. Brian Curtis at this time,

- 2 Captain.
- 3 You can ask any questions.
- 4 MR. CURTIS: Captain, this is Brian Curtis. As we
- 5 spoke earlier we have some engineering related questions.
- 6 So if you could just do your best in answering them that
- 7 would be great. Just for clarification back for repairs
- 8 early on you said number 3 --
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Liner.
- 10 MR. CURTIS: Was that number 3 engine?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Number 3 unit of main
- 12 engine. The liner of number 3 main engine.
- MR. CURTIS: Right. Okay.
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And number 3
- 15 (indiscernible) had it's liner cracked.
- 16 MR. CURTIS: Okay. How many main engines are
- 17 there?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: In the main engine, only
- 19 one main engine but in the 6 units.
- 20 MR. CURTIS: 6 cylinders?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Cylinders.
- MR. CURTIS: Okay, okay. And then they repaired
- 23 that and they went to re fire it and then there was a
- 24 problem?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No when we isolated it,

- 1 this unit, we start trying to fire it, can't work but it
- 2 will not work. Made several attempts and didn't fire. Ther
- 3 we (indiscernible).
- 4 MR. CURTIS: And later on you referred to number
- 5 6.
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Correct.
- 7 MR. CURTIS: So it was number 3 early on. You
- 8 couldn't re fire it. And then where does number 6 come into
- 9 the --
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.) Sir,
- 11 number 3 we isolated that is while the men were onboard.
- 12 How to go about isolating number 3 unit and proceed, resume
- 13 your passage within 5 yards. We did all that as per
- 14 instructions, we did not succeed recalling that with talking
- 15 with the department in Singapore.
- MR. CURTIS: Okay.
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They, in turn they got in
- 18 touch with the beakers in (indiscernible). Who was
- 19 (indiscernible)? Give us step by step procedure of what
- 20 statute you followed, what have you done? So we had I think
- 21 six, seven steps. We told them what all we had done. Then
- 22 they, then the reply came by email on the telephone
- 23 (indiscernible) you don't have to take all these six, seven
- 24 steps. Only do first step. And you put those all, remove
- 25 all the blanks which you have already got back. Only

1 isolate 3. I think (indiscernible) I'm not sure. So only

- 2 number 1 I do. So we did that. So we (indiscernible)
- 3 position and isolated only 2 as per the other instructions,
- 4 beaker's instructions. (Indiscernible) as per the
- 5 instructions. They said engine will start, you should have
- 6 no problem. So we tried again. No luck then. And then --
- 7 is that the answer now or I continue? You say how did
- 8 number 6 come into picture. Then we told them sorry, no
- 9 luck. They said okay, do this, do this. Two, three more
- 10 vessels came and then they said okay, stop doing that, don'
- 11 give too many kicks. It might damage the pistons. Nobody
- 12 (indiscernible) have a look at the piston in all the units,
- 13 (indiscernible) then another message came that
- 14 (indiscernible) full picture. Take from the starboard side
- 15 also. That is from the starboard side we had to go and
- 16 enter through the scavenging space. So they said
- 17 (indiscernible). So we took the photograph, we sent it away
- 18 (indiscernible) and also written message also that unit
- 19 number 1, yes, number 2, yes, number 4, 5, 6, so we thought
- 20 number 6 was the worst. I think more number of
- 21 (indiscernible) was made.
- MR. CURTIS: Okay.
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And they were blackened,
- 24 whatever technique (indiscernible) or sticky, whatever.
- 25 (Indiscernible.) Then what they, what conclusion they reach

- 1 is if you can remove the piston of number 6, change the
- 2 rings, piston rings, you should be able to fire the engine.
- 3 But now that weather is very bad now we normally should be
- 4 (indiscernible) 10 to 12 hours but now with the weather it
- 5 can take only two days, maybe (indiscernible), plus we are
- 6 scared to take it up because the ship is rolling.
- 7 MR. CURTIS: Correct.
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: So that's all we start
- 9 working on number 6 unit. It's, you repair just number 6
- 10 and then main engine should start, you should have no
- 11 problem. That is the worst one. (Indiscernible) --
- MR. CURTIS: Correct me where I'm wrong here. You
- 13 first identified, they identified number 3 as the problem.
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, and number 3
- 15 (indiscernible) the liner cracked there.
- 16 MR. CURTIS: Okay. So you stopped the entire
- 17 engine?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: If we stopped the engine,
- 19 we stop the entire engine.
- 20 MR. CURTIS: Okay you stopped the entire engine.
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That's it.
- MR. CURTIS: Repaired number 3.
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no, no. We wanted to
- 24 remove the liner on number 3 unit but then the rolling was
- 25 there, too much rolling. We thought it should be remove the

1 liner or shouldn't we remove the liner. So we, some time

- 2 was wasted whether to do it or not. One person was saying
- 3 let's do it, chief engineer is saying let's doing.
- 4 (Indiscernible) saying if it does that what happens. There
- 5 is a disagreement going on. Should we do it, shouldn't we
- 6 do it. So finally we came to the conclusion that we isolate
- 7 this unit. Because of weather, the weather was very bad so
- 8 we cancel that option that we will not remove the liner.
- 9 MR. CURTIS: Okay and that's, so you isolated that
- 10 unit and then tried to re fire and it wouldn't re fire.
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah. Then --
- MR. CURTIS: And then the BMW rep told you to
- 13 check everything and you found number 6 to be faulty.
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, and then we had to
- 15 listen, okay your procedure was not correct. We followed
- 16 this procedure to restore all the connections back, isolate
- 17 only (indiscernible). Do only what you did, nothing,
- 18 (indiscernible). So we did that. We could not start. Then
- 19 the company said okay, don't give any more kicks, you'll end
- 20 up (indiscernible) all the piston rings. Now you open the
- 21 door and check the piston rings of 4 and 5 units and same
- 22 person photographed condition.
- 23 MR. CURTIS: All right. You mentioned there was,
- 24 these directions came from the BMW representative?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no. (Indiscernible)

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1 superintendent in Singapore.
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- 2 MR. CURTIS: So your company?
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- 4 MR. CURTIS: Okay.
- 5 MR. LEW: The superintendent was making contact
- 6 with the BMW of communication process through the office
- 7 (indiscernible).
- 8 MR. CURTIS: And I was talking to Captain Lew,
- 9 this is Brian Curtis again. Can I just, do you have that
- 10 representative's name that I could get later?
- 11 MR. LEW: I can check it out. I can check it out.
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I can give you the name.
- MR. LEW: Of BMW?
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) --
- 15 MR. CURTIS: The individual that called the
- 16 vessel.
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, Mr. Rajiv Serin.
- 18 MR. LEW: The superintendent (indiscernible).
- 19 MR. CURTIS: And how do you spell that?
- 20 MR. LEW: R-A-J-I-V, S-E-R-I-N.
- 21 MR. CURTIS: R-A-G --
- MR. LEW: I-V, S-E-R-I-N.
- 23 MR. CURTIS: J, R-A-J-I --
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: RAJ (indiscernible) --
- 25 MR. CURTIS: (Indiscernible?)

- 1 MR. JONES: And his position is?
- 2 MR. LEW: Superintendent in charge of the vessel.

3

- 4 MR. CURTIS: Who is, do you, are you aware who was
- 5 in the engine room with, working on the engine?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Chief engineers are in
- 7 there.
- 8 MR. CURTIS: Those are the --
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They were taking all the
- 10 decisions they were to do because they had a system so I
- 11 don't know because I was on the bridge.
- MR. LEW: May I ask a question on that? What
- 13 (indiscernible) because when you ask (indiscernible).
- 14 MR. CURTIS: Okay Captain Singh, who was in the
- 15 engine room initially? You say the captain or the chief
- 16 engineer and second engineer are down there. Who was his
- 17 assistants? Are you aware of who was there?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, I was on the bridge.
- 19 I receive a call from chief engineer, the engine has broken
- 20 down.
- 21 MR. CURTIS: Okay. And later on you said you, I'm
- 22 not sure, you said you sent people below to work with them
- 23 but who did you, did you send anybody down to work with the
- 24 engineers as well?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: From the deck side I sent

1 two or three times give chief officer some of the crew

- 2 members to assist.
- 3 MR. CURTIS: Do you recall total, how many you
- 4 sent down total?
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Six persons besides me and
- 6 chief officer they were all down.
- 7 MR. CURTIS: They were all in the engine room?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And until the time we hit
- 9 that (indiscernible). All the six people, (indiscernible)
- 10 six people, they were assisting.
- 11 MR. CURTIS: Just bear with me as I read through
- 12 my notes here. Are you aware of how many ship service
- 13 generators there were other than the main engines, for
- 14 power?
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Three generators.
- MR. CURTIS: Three generators? And they usually
- 17 run all three do you know?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, one or two. One, two.
- 19 MR. LEW: At sea position only we run
- 20 (indiscernible) because we're not (indiscernible).
- 21 MR. CURTIS: Okay this is just for the
- 22 transcriptionist and if you do interject that we identify
- 23 ourselves.
- 24 I'll just ask Captain Lew what's the normal
- 25 procedure for --

1 MR. LEW: Normal procedure when they sign the boat

- 2 itself normally you run one. If the boat exceed
- 3 (indiscernible) then we run two. We have three but one is
- 4 always on the stand by itself (indiscernible).
- 5 MR. CURTIS: Okay, Captain Singh that day do you
- 6 recall how many generators were running, do you know?
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, I don't know. It
- 8 should be only one. Because we're at sea. (Indiscernible)
- 9 it should be one.
- 10 MR. CURTIS: Okay. The fuel, they burn heavy fuel
- 11 and light fuel?
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No only 380 CSD.
- 13 MR. CURTIS: 380 CSD. And are you aware of what
- 14 tanks they were burning from at the time of --
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We were using number 2.
- 16 (Indiscernible.)
- 17 MR. CURTIS: And you were in contact with the
- 18 chief engineer. Was he aware of the proximity, how close
- 19 you were to land?
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, I kept on telling
- 21 chief engineer that we are drifting very quickly to the
- 22 coast. I think once or twice I told him around 3 miles.
- 23 Not all the time. Once in a while I would tell him
- 24 (indiscernible) do quickly. We're getting closer all the
- 25 time.

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1 MR. CURTIS: I realize it's not your area. Do you
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- 2 recall any previous problems along these same lines that
- 3 they have with the engines? Is this a regular problem?
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: What sort of problem?
- 5 MR. CURTIS: A breakdown because of a bad
- 6 cylinder. Was this a problem that --
- 7 CAPTIAN KAILASH SINGH: No, no.
- 8 MR. CURTIS: -- happened periodically? Do you
- 9 remember the last time it happened?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No. Not during my time.
- 11 I've been there for four months.
- MR. CURTIS: And what was your rotation on the
- 13 vessel? How long was your trip?
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Kept with my
- 15 (indiscernible)?
- MR. CURTIS: Yes.
- 17 MR. LEW: (Indiscernible.)
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: For about six months. I
- 19 got to do five months, can be five and a half, six.
- 20 MR. CURTIS: So you were about four months into
- 21 your --
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Just about four months.
- 23 MR. CURTIS: -- service trip? And did you work
- 24 frequently with this chief engineer?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, first time I'm

- 1 sailing, first time with him.
- 2 MR. CURTIS: And how long had he been with the
- 3 vessel?
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We were (indiscernible) I
- 5 came about six, seven days before him.
- 6 MR. CURTIS: Oh, so about the same time onboard.
- 7 And when you were in Seattle did you have any Coast Guard
- 8 inspections?
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We had Coast Guard
- 10 inspection. Because the ship had come to States after six,
- 11 seven years. Last time she was (indiscernible) was '98,
- 12 December.
- MR. CURTIS: Okay.
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: So they came for BSC
- 15 inspection and as (indiscernible) ISBS for security also.
- 16 MR. CURTIS: Last time you took fuel, last time in
- 17 bunkers, when was that, do you recall?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: In Seattle
- 19 (indiscernible).
- 20 MR. CURTIS: In Seattle? Are you aware of the
- 21 tanks they bunkered to?
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We bunkered in 2 center, 3
- 23 center.
- MR. CURTIS: Do you recall how much you took?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 1,000 tons. 2

- 1 (indiscernible), 4 quart, three tanks.
- 2 MR. CURTIS: I realize I'm jumping around here --
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, it's all right.
- 4 MR. CURTIS: -- (indiscernible) my notes. When
- 5 the chief came topside, when they stopped working on the
- 6 engine, the chief came topside with everybody else did he
- 7 make any other comments regarding the engines before he left
- 8 the vessel? Did you discuss anything with him?
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, because he told me he
- 10 needs 10 minutes, but now on the, as per the last
- 11 conversation. He said he needs 10 minutes but then I
- 12 (indiscernible) chief forget everything. We have already
- 13 hit the bottom, we're run aground. Let's run forward now.
- 14 Leave everything as it is. So after that I can't remember
- 15 what he said, how much (indiscernible) chief. But 10
- 16 minutes was the last, last thing I heard from him.
- MR. CURTIS: Okay so you're --
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: So we're standing there,
- 19 just the people are just standing, are you okay, have you,
- 20 can you deliver your document or whatever (indiscernible).
- 21 MR. CURTIS: So they came up from the engine room
- 22 previous to the break up of the vessel then? Because they
- 23 were --
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They all came with me.
- 25 Within three minutes or so we were all standing there

- 1 waiting for the first chopper. We originally
- 2 (indiscernible0 14 minutes for the chopper to come.
- 3 MR. CURTIS: And the third and the fourth
- 4 engineer --
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They had already left in
- 6 the first two batches.
- 7 MR. CURTIS: They left earlier?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: One left in, with the
- 9 first batch. Another one with the second batch. I think
- 10 fourth left with the first batch.
- 11 MR. CURTIS: Okay. The electrical officer --
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: He was with me, electrical
- 13 officer.
- 14 MR. CURTIS: He went in the last batch, too?
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: In the last batch.
- MR. CURTIS: Is that the right term for his job
- 17 description? Electrical officer?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Electrical officer or
- 19 electrician, whatever you want.
- MR. CURTIS: Okay.
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Electrical officer we call
- 22 him.
- MR. CURTIS: And the crew for the engine room,
- 24 what was the (indiscernible) the chief engineer --
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Second engineer, third

1 engineer, fourth engineer, two engine cadets and then one

- 2 (indiscernible) and three (indiscernible).
- 3 MR. CURTIS: And what, do you know if the earlier,
- 4 the third and the fourth engineer, were they working on the
- 5 engine as well or --
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They were in the engine
- 7 room but I don't know what they were doing. I assumed they
- 8 (indiscernible) they must be doing.
- 9 MR. CURTIS: Okay. That's all I have right now.
- 10 I'll past the questioning on. Just identify yourselves
- 11 beforehand.
- 12 MR. HOWELLS: This is General Howells with the
- 13 Coast Guard. Captain, could you tell me again when you
- 14 started having the bad weather?
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: When we started having it?
- MR. HOWELLS: Yeah.
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: It was soon after we left
- 18 the (indiscernible). So I guess four, four hours, or three
- 19 or four hours after departing from (indiscernible) Strait.
- 20 MR. HOWELLS: Three or four hours after you left
- 21 the Strait --
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: After we left the Strait.
- MR. HOWELLS: -- is that correct? Okay. Okay did
- 24 I understand correctly that you experienced some, the engine
- 25 surging? Is that what you said?

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1 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: A lull.
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- 2 MR. HOWELLS: Oh a lull, okay.
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: The chief engineer kept
- 4 saying it's lull.
- 5 MR. HOWELLS: From the weather?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, because of
- 7 (indiscernible).
- 8 MR. HOWELLS: Oh, good. Okay. Okay and or had
- 9 arrived at noon of the 6th, this was when you learned that
- 10 the liner was cracked of the number 3 unit, roughly?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) yes.
- MR. HOWELLS: And who told you that?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Chief engineer told me.
- MR. HOWELLS: Chief engineer?
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Chief engineer on the
- 16 phone. I was on the (indiscernible) so I got the phone.
- 17 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Captain, did you have all the
- 18 parts that you needed to make your repairs?
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We had.
- 20 MR. HOWELLS: Captain, do you remember about what
- 21 time that you decided to isolate number 3 and go to Dutch?
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Should have been, maybe
- 23 took two hours to decide.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We started at

- 1 (indiscernible).
- 2 MR. HOWELLS: I see. Okay.
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) we were
- 4 talking to our superintendent also in Singapore.
- 5 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. When you were trying to call
- 6 Dutch Harbor on channel 16 was that the Harbor Master you're
- 7 trying to get a hold of?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That's right. Any contact
- 9 with anyone --
- 10 MR. HOWELLS: Did you follow that charter?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: -- but Dutch Harbor Master
- 12 that I had spoken to I tried to call by different
- 13 (Indiscernible). Dutch Harbor Master, Dutch Harbor Master's
- 14 office. That time port control, every chance.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Captain, do you recall about
- 16 what time that you got the Harbor Master on the phone?
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: The time I'm going to give
- 18 you is not this time. I was keeping 11 hours. So my time
- 19 was 00, just below, before 1:00.
- 20 MR. HOWELLS: 01 or 13?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: It was 0, or 0100 hours.
- MR. HOWELLS: Is that GMT?
- CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no, this is Ship Mean
- 24 time. That means 11 hours behind GMT.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.

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1 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 6th it was. No, 7th.
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- 2 That would be 62500 hours minus my time, (indiscernible) 11
- 3 hours. That's, I'd say seven (indiscernible) 03?
- 4 MR. HOWELLS: I'm sorry, say that again.
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 7 till noon.
- 6 MR. HOWELLS: 7, noon on the 7th, is that what
- 7 you're saying?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: If it is 0701 ship time.
- 9 11 hours behind GMT. So GMT is 11 hours more. So GMT
- 10 should be 7th at noon. So your time would be 3:00.
- MR. JONES: Why don't you pause that?
- Mr. Howells from the Coast Guard is still talking.
- 13 MR. HOWELLS: Okay Captain, could you clarify? I
- 14 thought I heard you say something. Were you trying to
- 15 maneuver the vessel with the rudder or anything during the
- 16 time after the tow was on the vessel?
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, when it was not
- 18 making any progress on getting the ship's side into the wind
- 19 he asked me, let's go try with the (indiscernible).
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) and we
- 22 kept on (indiscernible) half an hour or so.
- MR. HOWELLS: Was it successful?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No. It made no
- 25 difference. And he said let's try with the, pointing it to

- 1 starboard.
- 2 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Captain, when the James
- 3 Dunlap was in the vicinity at the time when they were
- 4 splicing the wires what's your best guess on the sea state
- 5 at that time?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) maybe 9,
- 7 10, 9-11 or so. Quite bad. When he said I don't
- 8 (indiscernible).
- 9 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. On the scale, 9 to 11 on the
- 10 scale?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 9 to 11.
- MR. HOWELLS: Sea scale. Okay.
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) 15, 16.
- 14 MR. HOWELLS: On the 8th of December you were
- 15 talking with the Alex Hailey. Oh, I'm sorry -- when you
- 16 overheard the conversation with the Alex Hailey do you
- 17 recall approximately what time that was?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: When I heard about the
- 19 starboard (indiscernible)? Must have been 10:00 because we,
- 20 anything from between 10 and noon. I think it's around
- 21 10:00. 10, let's say, let's guess 10:00.
- MR. HOWELLS: Concerning the Alex Hailey and the
- 23 line. Did they use a line throwing gun to get the line?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, they use a gun to
- 25 throw the line.

1 MR. HOWELLS: And could you walk me through, once

- 2 you got the line from the Alex Hailey did that get made off
- 3 on your ship?
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, we started leaning
- 5 on that line and she cut across my bow. As she was cutting
- 6 across she fired the line. We cut it out and we started
- 7 heaving and then she went quick, (indiscernible) a lot of
- 8 distance and chief officer said -- chief officer had also
- 9 walkie talkie. He was directly in touch with
- 10 (indiscernible) channel 6. Please side the tow line quickly
- 11 because we are trying to do it as fast as we can but then I
- 12 think they must have moved, got 100 meter or maybe more than
- 13 that away from our bow and that time (indiscernible) that
- 14 line, (indiscernible) line. Because we had lost the
- 15 steering. They told me that sorry, they have lost the
- 16 steering so they had to leave the line. And then they took
- 17 suggest, they took some time to get steering back in order.
- 18 MR. JONES: This is Rob Jones. I just want to
- 19 clarify, Captain, while we're here. Sorry for interrupting
- 20 but did they have tension on that tow line?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That line is, it is very
- 22 thin line. I could not see it but chief officer was saying
- 23 please give me more slack so there was tension there.
- MR. JONES: Okay. You say they lost --
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They were saying give me

- 1 more slack, I am trying to give it.
- 2 MR. JONES: And you say that, was it your
- 3 understanding that they lost steering, they lost steerage
- 4 way?
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: He said I lost my
- 6 steering.
- 7 MR. JONES: Mechanical or he just couldn't steer
- 8 in the weather?
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: He said in strange way.
- 10 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I think it was mechanical
- 12 but then he said he is trying to restore steering and then
- 13 proceed again. He said he'll make another attempt
- 14 (indiscernible) possibly not. It will take he said at least
- 15 45 minutes. By that time he said (indiscernible).
- 16 MR. JONES: Okay. Back to General Howells.
- 17 MR. HOWELLS: This is Mr. Howells again. So do I
- 18 understand you to say that the plan was to put a line over
- 19 again once they did whatever they had to to?
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, because both of the
- 21 tugs had declined, you see. For I asked for James, I didn't
- 22 say regarding (indiscernible) operation, I said can you pass
- 23 me a tug line. He said he will not risk his people. Then
- 24 same thing was, same answer came from the Sidney Foss.
- 25 Called the Cutter Coast Guard and I was also asking them

- 1 what are your intention. Then they found the
- 2 (indiscernible) okay we are going to give it a go now.
- 3 After (indiscernible) stupid of them to pull us. I was very
- 4 much relieved that they had taken this risk for me.
- 5 MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: For my safety.
- 7 MR. HOWELLS: Did they ever make a second attempt,
- 8 the Alex Hailey? Did they ever make --
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no. They said they
- 10 are going to make it and then they said it's taking them a
- 11 long time. They will need minimal 45 minutes to position
- 12 themselves again to --
- MR. HOWELLS: Get sorted out.
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: -- proceed for the second
- 15 line and then they said it will get dark and the ships are
- 16 also angling close.
- MR. HOWELLS: So what you're saying it was dark
- 18 before they had a chance to get set up for the second --
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No. They said they will
- 20 get, it will probably get late so it is a bit risky.
- 21 (Indiscernible) --
- MR. HOWELLS: I guess what I'm trying to find out,
- 23 Captain is why they didn't get that second line and make a
- 24 second attempt.
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: It will take, it would

- 1 have taken a lot of lines.
- 2 MR. HOWELLS: Oh, okay.
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We were already closing
- 4 (indiscernible).
- 5 MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: First attempt was made I
- 7 think around 16, around 16:30 or something. Something like
- 8 that. If, I'm not very sure. Maybe 16:20-16:30. So
- 9 (indiscernible) and they would have come back
- 10 (indiscernible) 17:30-1800 hours.
- 11 MR. HOWELLS: Thank you. Okay. We'll cover the
- 12 anchors in a second. Is it your opinion that the second
- 13 anchor was holding as well?
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) the second
- 15 anchor we were holding on .89 (indiscernible). 9 cables off
- 16 the sea. 9 cables off land and she was holding. She was
- 17 (indiscernible) at one time chief also told me she is, she
- 18 has come to point .85.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That's the closing
- 21 distance I remember. We came to the boat slip. After that
- 22 I didn't see the (indiscernible) because then things were, I
- 23 was running, communicating with the engine room and
- 24 (indiscernible) so chief also last one he gave me was .85
- 25 and then I firmly believe we did maintain that. And we were

- 1 maintaining for a good one and half hour.
- 2 MR. HOWELLS: That position?
- 3 MR. JONES: Excuse me. One and a half hours?
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: At least. Maybe close to
- 5 two hours.
- 6 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Until we got
- 8 (indiscernible).
- 9 MR. JONES: Okay. Thank you.
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I'm sure after
- 11 (indiscernible) we were maintaining position because they
- 12 were keeping us (indiscernible).
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay Captain, do you know when the
- 14 first batch of the crew that was rescued, do you know where
- 15 they were taken?
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They were taken to Alex
- 17 Hailey.
- 18 MR. HOWELLS: The second group?
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Second group to this
- 20 place, (indiscernible). But the second one (indiscernible)
- 21 when I landed here around 9:00-10:00.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay. And you said it was 20-30
- 23 minutes between the first and second batches?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, very very quickly.
- 25 Maybe 14 minutes.

1 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Captain, what in your mind do

- 2 you think caused the helicopter to crash?
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: See at that time I did not
- 4 see.
- 5 MR. HOWELLS: So you don't know?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: My guess was that, yeah.
- 7 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. You didn't see it?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah. What he told me,
- 9 Aaron told me, he said they got (indiscernible).
- 10 MR. HOWELLS: So you didn't see it?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I didn't see it.
- MR. HOWELLS: Could you tell me again what time
- 13 you thought that was, that the helo crashed?
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: 18:15. This is just my
- 15 quess.
- 16 MR. HOWELLS: Okay, sure. Okay Captain, you were
- 17 talking about the life raft that you had secured. Was that
- 18 something that the helicopter dropped or something, one from
- 19 the ship?
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, we have a minimum 6
- 21 person life raft.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay, then one of the ships?
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: It was only lying on the
- 24 (indiscernible) on the port side. We were (indiscernible)
- 25 so we just made for the (indiscernible). That is when we

- 1 are (indiscernible) ship's group.
- 2 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Do I understand you right,
- 3 you said that you could hear some fudding alarms while you
- 4 were outside?
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yes, while we were
- 6 waiting.
- 7 MR. HOWELLS: While you were waiting --
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Me and --
- 9 MR. HOWELLS: -- for the helicopter to come back?
- 10 Okay.
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: It was nonstop. It was
- 12 continuous because all the doors were shut so even though
- 13 the door was shut I kept hearing the alarm.
- 14 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Captain, when you were in the
- 15 last port of Seattle's calm area did you do an abandon ship
- 16 drill with the Coast Guard?
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We did.
- 18 MR. HOWELLS: You did? Captain, did you have any
- 19 idea of why the engine wouldn't fire after you isolated
- 20 number 3? Would you have an opinion of that? Did you have
- 21 a conversation with the chief engineer?
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: He said, chief engineer,
- 23 what he told me was when is firing the (indiscernible).
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Something in 1, 1, 2, 3,

1 4, 5, 6 after 1 goes to number 6, something like that. Then

- 2 5 and 2. Then 3 and 4 and (indiscernible). Something like
- 3 that. I am not sure. He was saying that number 3 had to
- 4 come closer to here, it did pass through that so he cannot
- 5 stop. (Indiscernible) I clear it and then I give a kick
- 6 half a turn or something, three quarter of a turn. Each
- 7 time number 3 unit comes in with loss.
- 8 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Did it sound like to you that
- 9 it was out of sequence or just wasn't being allowed to fire?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: He was saying number 3 is
- 11 blocking.
- 12 MR. HOWELLS: Okay, number 3 is blocking --
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And on the (indiscernible)
- 14 also number, number 3 and 4 were one after another. He said
- 15 (indiscernible) then also number 3 (indiscernible). Number
- 16 3 and 4 are in one direction. It first comes to number 3
- 17 and then following number 4 in the reverse direction. After
- 18 number 4 then first number 3 is coming (indiscernible). So
- 19 that was what he told me.
- 20 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. And I just want to verify one
- 21 thing real quick. All the units were looked at and number 6
- 22 was the only one with bad rings?
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, it was worse one.
- MR. HOWELLS: I'm sorry?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: It was the worst one.

1 There were some, what they call hot, sticky or something.

- 2 (Indiscernible) I think (indiscernible) so sticky and
- 3 blackened.
- 4 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. (Indiscernible).
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- 6 MR. HOWELLS: Thank you. But number 6 was the
- 7 only one that had that kind of problem, is that right?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Number 6 they considered
- 9 number 6 as the worst one. If we change the rings on number
- 10 6 we should have no problem firing the engine.
- 11 MR. HOWELLS: Did you have the rings for that
- 12 onboard?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We had.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- 16 MR. HOWELLS: The ring?
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: In the solution at this
- 18 time. Number 6 piston rings are already changed.
- 19 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. So when you left the ship
- 20 number 6 piston rings had been changed?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Changed just five minutes,
- 22 I think (indiscernible) that's all.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Ready for firing.
- 25 MR. HOWELLS: Captain, did you have pretty good

- 1 confidence in your chief engineer?
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, I had confidence.
- 3 And with this chief engineer had been on the ship for fourth
- 4 time now. He had sailed --
- 5 MR. HOWELLS: That was his fourth tour on that
- 6 vessel?
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That's right. I think
- 8 only once we was sent on another vessel. He kept on
- 9 repeating this vessel.
- 10 MR. HOWELLS: And I understand that you were there
- 11 for four months?
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Four months.
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay. Had you had any other
- 14 mechanical difficulties in that time?
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Just the routine
- 16 maintenance things.
- 17 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. As far as the maintenance was
- 18 there any problems that you heard from the chief engineer
- 19 that he would have performing any maintenance? Did, supply
- 20 or amount of people? Did that seem okay?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No. We were, we were
- 22 doing (indiscernible).
- MR. HOWELLS: Okay.
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) first
- 25 space during this period.

- 1 MR. HOWELLS: Okay. That's all I have.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: Good evening, Captain. This is
- 3 Senior Chief McPhilamy with the U.S. Coast Guard.
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Good evening.
- 5 MR. MCPHILAMY: Captain, as I understand when you
- 6 made the decision and the attempt to contact the Coast Guard
- 7 prior to your phone call you made a radio call attempting to
- 8 reach the Coast Guard. Is this correct?
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- 10 MR. MCPHILAMY: Can I ask did you make the call or
- 11 was this done by one of your officers?
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I also called and
- 13 (indiscernible).
- 14 MR. MCPHILAMY: And was that call over VHF channel
- 15 16?
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Channel 1 6.
- 17 MR. MCPHILAMY: 1 6. And you heard anything,
- 18 nothing?
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: Nothing.
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I think once we heard
- 22 somebody interrupting us. And then I wasn't listening.
- 23 Somebody said something, not really talking on
- 24 (indiscernible) anybody but no, nobody has responded from
- 25 Harbor Master's office.

1 MR. MCPHILAMY: No one responded from the Harbor

- 2 Master's office?
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No
- 4 MR. MCPHILAMY: Did you call -- sorry, I
- 5 apologize. Can you please say for me what you said through
- 6 the VHF radio?
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Dutch Harbor Master's
- 8 office, Dutch Harbor Master's office (indiscernible) do you
- 9 read me. And (indiscernible) then no response and I changed
- 10 the address. Dutch Harbor Master, Dutch Harbor Port
- 11 Operations, Dutch Harbor Port Operations. This is
- 12 (indiscernible) Selendang Ayu. Do you read me? Then I
- 13 repeated my call sign also. (Indiscernible) one time my
- 14 name and also I defined my charting (indiscernible), do you
- 15 read me. No response. Same thing follow (indiscernible).
- 16 MR. MCPHILAMY: After the unsuccessful attempts to
- 17 reach Dutch Harbor Master at that point you made the
- 18 telephone call?
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: Thank you, sir.
- Captain, this is still Senior Chief McPhilamy.
- 22 When the decision was made to begin removing the first nine
- 23 members of your crew and those crew members were readied to
- 24 be picked up by the helicopter did the helicopter, prior to
- 25 that, drop off anything to the vessel?

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1 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Prior to that?
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- 2 MR. MCPHILAMY: Prior to that point. Was, was --
- 3
- 4 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: What do you mean? What
- 5 sort of things?
- 6 MR. MCPHILAMY: I don't know if, I'm not actually
- 7 asking you for any one thing. I was wondering if there was
- 8 anything lowered to the vessel for your crew.
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- 10 MR. MCPHILAMY: Just the basket?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Bucket.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: Bucket? Okay. Thank you.
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: And they told me, please
- 14 tell everyone not to bring heavy baggage. I told everybody
- 15 only bring that, just the bare minimum necessities like your
- 16 night dress and toothbrush and things like that. Or any
- 17 important documents please start getting ready. But I told
- 18 them I said one person is coming with a big suitcase. It is
- 19 containing all the ship's documents. He said
- 20 (indiscernible) but they eventually (indiscernible).
- 21 MR. MCPHILAMY: May I ask who packed the suitcase
- 22 with the ship's documents?
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I did it myself. Somebody
- 24 else (indiscernible) secondly that I don't know what item
- 25 was mostly (indiscernible).

1 MR. MCPHILAMY: Those ship's documents, did they

- 2 also include the personal documents for the crew?
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Passports, (indiscernible)
- 4 book, health books. Probably also, I'm not very sure now, I
- 5 think entry log was also there. Old one and new, new
- 6 article, ship's article.
- 7 MR. MCPHILAMY: Thank you, Captain.
- 8 Captain may I ask for you to describe for me the
- 9 communication procedures you mentioned I believe, the
- 10 communication procedures from the ship to the Singapore
- 11 office. Telephone and I believe you said email?
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- 13 (Indiscernible.)
- 14 MR. MCPHILAMY: The information by email you had
- 15 also sent off the digital pictures?
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Correct.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: Do you know the status of the
- 18 pictures, where those pictures taken off the ship by someone
- 19 also a camera or how, do you know the location of that?
- 20 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, the camera is
- 21 somewhere on the ship.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: On the ship?
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: But it is, if we can
- 24 revive the computer it will be in the computer also.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: Thank you.

1 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Camera is also somewhere

- 2 on the ship.
- 3 MR. MCPHILAMY: Captain, thank you very much.
- 4 MR. JONES: Captain, this is Rob Jones again with
- 5 the Safety Board. Just all doing a couple follow up
- 6 questions. We'll go around the room one more time.
- 7 Excuse me, sorry, Captain Lew. (Indiscernible)
- 8 Captain Lew, I'm sorry about that.
- 9 MR. LEW: This is Captain Lew of the City
- 10 Department of the company. Captain, I would just like to
- 11 ask you again for this confirmation. Just earlier you
- 12 informed us that you called Dutch Harbor on the phone call.
- 13 Dutch Harbor has replied you. When the Coast Guard, the
- 14 lady from the Coast Guard call you back? After Dutch Harbor
- 15 contact or before that?
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No after.
- 17 MR. LEW: After?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Even he said when I asked
- 19 him I need Harbor help he said okay, I will make, I'll have
- 20 to make a couple of, a few phone calls he said.
- 21 MR. LEW: So between that first contact that you
- 22 had with her and the next contact that she called back. Can
- 23 you remember roughly what the interval was?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Probably one or two hours.
- MR. LEW: One or two hours?

1 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: She, I didn't hear from

- 2 the Harbor Master's office again but I had got a phone from
- 3 courier and (indiscernible) lady.
- 4 MR. LEW: While waiting for her did you not try to
- 5 call back for (indiscernible) or just keep waiting itself?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, I didn't expect her,
- 7 expected a reply from Harbor Master's office.
- 8 MR. LEW: I see.
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That something would come.
- 10 Then I thought I will, later on I check a lot of time but
- 11 (indiscernible). Sir, I have to apologize. I'm sorry to
- 12 wake you up in the middle of the night. He said oh no,
- 13 you're not disturbing me at all. I'm speaking while at
- 14 Master's office.
- 15 MR. LEW: Your first contact tow line that you
- 16 make with (indiscernible) you say he was nine inch room.
- 17 Can you describe for me the line (indiscernible) itself?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Nine inch, nine inches the
- 19 synthetic line was six feet, 600 feet long. 600 feet long
- 20 (indiscernible) and then it was connected to two inch line
- 21 wires. And that was 2003 lock.
- 22 MR. LEW: Both of you agree on the procedure in
- 23 which the line has to be placed?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah, that is right. He
- 25 said that you put it on the border and we did, okay

1 (indiscernible) or from the (indiscernible) measure so I

- 2 also (indiscernible) but then I have seen that
- 3 (indiscernible).
- 4 MR. LEW: Sir, can you rephrase this again?
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: We agreed that we would
- 6 pass the line through the second (indiscernible).
- 7 MR. LEW: Second (indiscernible) okay. And just
- 8 now when you were saying the (indiscernible) that you make
- 9 first to the life raft while prior to being lifted up by the
- 10 helicopter itself you mentioned that the tanker line passed
- 11 it also --
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) --
- 13 MR. LEW: -- (Indiscernible).
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No that was, that was when
- 15 I was with engineer. We were on the ship, me and the
- 16 (indiscernible). A lot of water was coming, life raft was
- 17 lying on the (indiscernible). It got lifted out from there
- 18 and line was already secured even when eight of us was
- 19 standing. Helicopter was (indiscernible) seen that time.
- 20 So we were just keeping it ready in case we need to use it.
- 21 So each (indiscernible) was the life raft. So we had tied,
- 22 each of us was tied against the spoke for number 1 has got
- 23 (indiscernible). So later on Aaron and myself
- 24 (indiscernible) he said I want to hold onto to this, I don't
- 25 want to lose this life raft. He started pulling it then we

1 got it both we took it down around (indiscernible) and as

- 2 the sea was getting very very dark, a lot of water
- 3 (indiscernible) ship so each time the wave came we had to
- 4 literally jump and stand under all the pipeline, hold onto
- 5 to something. I said you do it when I'm ready so we don't
- 6 get soaked in the water. So that is the (indiscernible) so
- 7 we lost the life raft. It (indiscernible) maybe number 2.
- 8 I don't know where it was. Later on it was on board I
- 9 (indiscernible).
- 10 MR. LEW: Last question. When Alex Hailey showed
- 11 the line to you (indiscernible) line, the intention was
- 12 you're going to pass your ship's line to them or they're
- 13 going to pass the ship, their line to you to pull itself?
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, that was, they will
- 15 send (indiscernible) --
- MR. LEW: Yeah.
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: -- followed by, I can't
- 18 recall now. Somewhere I have to unload so I think it was
- 19 the combination of those lines were about 300 feet long.
- 20 3000 feet long, the tow line.
- 21 MR. LEW: So --
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I think one was 1000 feet
- 23 and another one 2000 feet.
- MR. LEW: At the end of the tow line which they
- 25 sent across the heaving line, you expect a tow line from

- 1 Alex Hailey?
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yeah. We (indiscernible)
- 3 chief officer was standing there and saying please give me
- 4 more slack, more slack. But then they had moved quite
- 5 quickly. They cut tow rope off like by the bow.
- 6 (Indiscernible) then they lost (indiscernible).
- 7 MR. LEW: Finished.
- 8 MR. JONES: Thanks, Captain. Both captains.
- 9 This is Rob Jones again. Captain, (indiscernible)
- 10 to do is just for background information. So just, we need
- 11 to try to identify as best we can, just a 72-hour profile is
- 12 what we call it, prior to the accident. Now this can be
- 13 construed as it was over quite a period of time. It didn't
- 14 happen all at once. So can you just give me, you departed
- 15 from Takoma on the --
- MR. LEW: Seattle.
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Seattle.
- 18 MR. JONES: Seattle.
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: On 28th of November.
- 20 MR. JONES: Okay so three days say prior to the
- 21 incident, around the 3rd or 4th can you just describe your
- 22 work hours as Captain of the vessel? Your normal work
- 23 hours, or your routine?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Routine is let's say into
- 25 12:00 and then couple of hours of rest according to the

- 1 (indiscernible).
- 2 MR. JONES: And is this paperwork --
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Then I would --
- 4 MR. JONES: -- managerial work, or
- 5 (indiscernible) --
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I (indiscernible) most of
- 7 the time, I'm on the bridge only because I have a computer
- 8 there, and a radio space.
- 9 MR. JONES: So you've got the watch during this
- 10 time?
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no, I don't have the
- 12 watch.
- MR. JONES: Okay, you're just --
- 14 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Because I am on the bridge
- 15 more than everybody during that time I'm gearing up
- 16 computer, sending message, seeing message. Plus whatever
- 17 (indiscernible) go up and down. Sometimes I'm in my office
- 18 and make (indiscernible) so between the bridge and my cabin
- 19 but most of the time I'm standing on the bridge.
- 20 MR. JONES: Normal sleep routine? Getting the
- 21 night, except for a call out, just regular sleep, eight
- 22 hours, six hours? Can you estimate that for us?
- 23 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I, (indiscernible) can
- 24 sleep only six hours (indiscernible). After I sleep maybe
- one, one and a half hour, take a short nap.

- 1 MR. JONES: Okay.
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: After lunch and then I go
- 3 up, I start sending message and man the boat. Then
- 4 (indiscernible).
- 5 MR. JONES: So prior to this stint that was
- 6 approximately your normal work routine, normal hours, normal
- 7 sleeping hours?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible) until
- 9 then.
- 10 MR. JONES: Okay. And what type of license do you
- 11 hold, Captain?
- 12 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I'm holding a masters
- 13 license for (indiscernible) --
- MR. JONES: And --
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: -- master's license from
- 16 India.
- 17 MR. JONES: From India?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Correct.
- 19 MR. JONES: Okay. So an Indian unlimited masters
- 20 license?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- MR. JONES: Okay and where did you get your
- 23 training for that license?
- 24 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: In, I was working the East
- 25 company when I got (indiscernible) passed exam from India.

1 MR. JONES: Okay. How long have you been in the

- 2 Merchant Marine?
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I joined in 1972 as a deck
- 4 cadet, for practice.
- 5 MR. JONES: Indian Merchant Marine?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, in Hong Kong Managed
- 7 company. Work ship men, (Indiscernible) all Indian company.
- 8 MR. JONES: And various jobs between deck cadet
- 9 and Captain I would assume?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- 11 (Indiscernible) tankers then most of the time until '89 most
- 12 of the time I was on tankers. (Indiscernible) but first 15
- 13 years I spent on tankers and since '89 I'm on
- 14 (indiscernible) vessel I worked we had a facility to unload
- 15 our vessel on one side and do the (indiscernible) on the
- 16 other side so we had double (indiscernible).
- 17 MR. JONES: And how long have you been sailing as
- 18 master?
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Since '87.
- 20 MR. JONES: And have you been in this route
- 21 before?
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I have been past the
- 23 Bering Strait.
- 24 MR. JONES: Approximately how many times?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Once before this.

1 MR. JONES: Just once? Okay. And with this

- 2 company how long have you been employed with this company?
- 3 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Since '98, '98.
- 4 MR. JONES: 1998. Do you have a month on that?
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: In December.
- 6 MR. JONES: December of 1998.
- 7 That's all I have right now. I'm just going to go
- 8 around the room one more time.
- 9 MR. CURTIS: Captain, Brian Curtis of the NTSB.
- 10 Just a couple of questions. The engineering log book did,
- 11 do you know if the chief took that with him on the
- 12 helicopter?
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Engine room log book?
- MR. CURTIS: Yes.
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Not chief. Secondary was
- 16 put in charge of that.
- 17 MR. CURTIS: He was carrying it?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yes. I told chief I said
- 19 we need last three months log books (indiscernible) and
- 20 chief, secondary and also chief was standing in front of the
- 21 cabin already. He told secondary who was an (indiscernible)
- 22 away, he said you will be in charge of this. Just bring all
- 23 the log books. (Indiscernible) he was there.
- MR. CURTIS: Engineering maintenance records, were
- 25 they kept on the vessel, in the office in Singapore or where

- 1 were they kept?
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: The maintenance
- 3 (indiscernible). We never call them, each other
- 4 (indiscernible) so we will it out on the computer and then
- 5 send documents on a monthly basis.
- 6 MR. CURTIS: Do you recall the name of the
- 7 software of the program you used?
- 8 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: BV ORCA.
- 9 MR. CURTIS How do you spell that, please?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Bravo Victor and the
- 11 second work is Oscar Romeo Charlie Alpha.
- MR. CURTIS: And that's the name of the program --
- 13 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible.)
- 14 MR. CURTIS: -- that houses your maintenance
- 15 records?
- 16 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yes.
- 17 MR. CURTIS: And do you know if that's identified
- 18 in your ISNS system?
- 19 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- MR. CURTIS: It is? Okay. Good.
- Just briefly the chief engineer, did he seem,
- 22 again along the profile did he seem particularly stressed or
- 23 anything over the last few days, relaxed, normal, was he his
- 24 normal self?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Normal, he was, this

1 engine problem (indiscernible) kept asking the chief can you

- 2 give me more RPM. When I was letting go I said chief, it
- 3 looks like (indiscernible).
- 4 MR. CURTIS: And (indiscernible), how was your
- 5 working relationship with the chief?
- 6 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Quite good. Very smooth.

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- 8 MR. CURTIS: Just, how long was the chief with the
- 9 company, do you know?
- 10 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Probably six or seven
- 11 years. Seven years, eight years.
- MR. CURTIS: And just one last area. The email,
- 13 when you got your directives how to re fire the engine did
- 14 that come by email? Did they send --
- 15 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: By email.
- MR. CURTIS: From your technical --
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: They (indiscernible)
- 18 cutting off the (indiscernible).
- 19 MR. CURTIS: Okay and those emails, were they
- 20 between the chief engineer and technical supervisor or were
- 21 they to you?
- 22 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No. All emails must pass
- 23 through Master.
- MR. CURTIS: Everything goes through the master?
- 25 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yes. If there is a

1 (indiscernible) so and so please do this. They don't say

- 2 chief engineer only.
- 3 MR. CURTIS: And there were pictures in there and
- 4 directions?
- 5 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, no the picture which,
- 6 no, no. I say there are no pictures but we received
- 7 (indiscernible).
- 8 MR. CURTIS: But you sent pictures to them?
- 9 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I sent attachments.
- 10 MR. CURTIS: Okay.
- 11 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: (Indiscernible)
- 12 attachments.
- 13 MR. CURTIS: So we'll be looking for those and
- 14 (indiscernible) requests we'll be looking for those
- 15 correspondences.
- 16 Okay, do you recall when the last ISM audit was,
- 17 and that's the external audit. Were you part of that?
- 18 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No, it's before me like
- 19 (indiscernible). I think even the (indiscernible).
- 20 MR. CURTIS: (Indiscernible.)
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Yes.
- MR. CURTIS: That's all I have. Thank you very
- 23 much, Captain.
- 24 MR. HOWELLS: This is General Howells with the
- 25 Coast Guard. Captain, is there any area that we haven't

- 1 addressed that you think might be helpful?
- 2 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: In?
- 3 MR. HOWELLS: Engineering wise, deck wise,
- 4 anything that you have that you could suggest to prevent
- 5 this from happening in the future? Is there any question
- 6 that we haven't asked you?
- 7 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: No. Only problem is that
- 8 we were having smooth sailing. I, by my experiences when
- 9 the sea is bad, all the engines we are having problem with
- 10 that. (Indiscernible) we cannot maintain RPM. So this is,
- 11 for me this is not something new that we had to isolate
- 12 unit. Over the years I have gone through this. When
- 13 (indiscernible) we could isolate that unit and we could
- 14 proceed.
- 15 MR. HOWELLS: So on other vessels you've had this
- 16 happen before?
- 17 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: I had (indiscernible)
- 18 before. I've been sailing for a while now.
- 19 MR. HOWELLS: Right. And so you've been able for,
- 20 the units were isolated and you were able to carry on?
- 21 CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: That is correct.
- MR. HOWELLS: Thank you. That's all I have.
- MR. MCPHILAMY: Captain, this is Senior Chief
- 24 McPhilamy with the U.S. Coast Guard. I do not have any
- 25 other questions at this time.

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CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Thank you.
 2
              MR. LEW: Captain Lew. No questions.
 3
              MR. JONES: Okay we'll conclude this interview at
    this time. Thank you for your time, Captain and again we
 4
 5
    definitely have our regrets with regards to your crew and
    the vessel. You're being a great help right now and we'll
 6
    just conclude the interview at this time.
 7
              CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH: Thank you so much
 8
 9
    (indiscernible). Once again I apologize for whatever mess
10
    we have created but at the same time I want to say that I
11
    definitely (indiscernible) we're risking our lives and we
12
    want to prevent this pollution taking place in your area so
13
    I stayed on the ship as long as it was possible and it was
14
    safe for us also. We left the ship only until we got help,
15
    until the time we thought we will stay and could do
16
    something but as we were going to come within
17
    (indiscernible) go with us.
18
              (Whereupon, at 11:04 a.m., the interview was
19
    concluded.)
20
21
22
23
24
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CERTIFICATE

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC., hereby certifies that the attached pages represent an accurate transcript of the electronic sound recording of the proceedings of the National Transportation Safety Board Interview regarding the grounding of the Selendang Ayu on December 11, 2004.

INTERVIEW OF CAPTAIN KAILASH SINGH

Donna Henry, Transcriber